

Amendments to the Specification

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 9, line 10 with the following paragraph.

The probes or primers used in the assays described herein are oligonucleotides, each having a nucleic acid sequence that specifically or selectively hybridizes under stringent hybridization conditions for selective hybridization to the complimentary, or opposite, strand of a highly conserved region of the nucleic acid molecule of the HIV-1 between nucleotide positions 7746 and 8459 of the HXB2 strain, for the *env* product, gp41, and between nucleotide positions 4596 and 5080 for the *pol* product, integrase. (GenBank Accession No. K03455; ~~see the website <http://hiv-web.lanl.gov/NUM-HXB2/HXB2-MAIN.html>~~). In a preferred embodiment, the probes or primers within this region selectively hybridize with all group M and O HIV-1 nucleic acids. In an alternative preferred embodiment, the probes or primers selectively hybridize with all group M, N and O HIV-1 nucleic acids and with chimpanzee SIV nucleic acids.

Appendix: Abstract